**PALM VALLEY CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

The City Council of the City of Palm Valley met in a Regular Meeting on the 15th day of November 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at 1313 N. Stuart Place Road, Palm Valley, Texas. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

Mayor George Rivera

Council members: John Widger, Debe Wright, Cynthia Thompson, Joe Jones

Absent: Julie Martin

City Attorney: Jason Mann

City Secretary: Sylvia R. Trevino

Staff Present: A. R. Garcia, Police Chief

Rosendo Flores, Waterworks Supervisor

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Rivera led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS –** Charles Ramsey started to speak about the Council meeting times but Mayor Rivera informed him that discussion would follow later in the meeting.
4. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – Regular Meeting of October 18, 2016**

Councilman Widger noted that Jason Mann was left out of the attendees list and he had been present at the meeting.

With the noted correction to be made, Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes.

Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **NEXT PHASE OF STREET LIGHT INSTALLATIONS AUTHORIZED AND STAFF AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS**

Mayor Rivera explained that he had asked Mr. Charles Ramsey to identify locations in need of street lights and Mr. Ramsey has done so. He is recommending a street light at 5209 Guava, 5619 La Luna, 728 Caro and 1708 Palm Valley West.

Mayor Rivera stated that he would propose to install lights at the entrance from the Wildwood Subdivision into Palm Valley South on Lemon Drive and on Tangerine. These would be installed in place of Guava and La Luna. He asked that attention be given to the cul-de-sacs as there are some that are rather dark locations such as Verde Circle, La Plaza Circle, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead.

When asked what his recommendation would be, Chief Garcia replied that he would recommend Lemon, Tangerine, Palm Valley West and Caro. The many trees on Guava hinder the lighting and that is why it is dark in that area and on La Luna, there are no houses at the end of that cul-de-sac. (Councilwoman Wright came in at this time: approximately 5:05 p.m.).

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the necessary requirements to install new street lights at 728 Caro, 1708 Palm Valley West, at the entrances of Lemon and Tangerine.

Councilwoman Thompson seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-6 TO REMOVE THE NON-RESIDENTS RESTRICTION IN SECTION 72.18 OF THE PARKING REGULATIONS TABLED.**

Mayor Rivera explained that he had assigned Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Wright to discuss with the Chief the existing ordinance and come up with a recommendation for changes. They came up with the proposed ordinance included in the agenda binder which removes ‘non residents’ and will also allow two permits per resident per month.

Councilwoman Wright commented on the problem that exists at Los Amigos where there are more cars than people. She suggested that the Association should consider placing an item on their agenda to discuss the problem and figure out what they want to do to comply with the ordinance. It was pointed out that the occupants at Los Amigos have two-car garages where they can park their vehicles.

She added that the problem exists when all spaces are full on the parking lot that faces the fairway.

Mayor Rivera added that this proposed ordinance is intended to provide for out of town guests and allows for special purposes.

Councilwoman Wright asked what the solution could be for private parking areas. Jason Mann replied that a “No Trespassing” sign could always be posted and those occupants could have stickers on their vehicles indicating they are residents of Palm Valley. People would not be allowed to park until they obtain a permit and before getting a permit they would need to explain why.

Councilman Jones stated that we need to consider the inconvenience to the City’s residents that this could cause. He asked if a ‘purpose’ could be added to the ordinance or include what the intent is. Jason Mann replied yes, the ordinance could be revised. Among the purposes could be emergencies, visitors or special circumstances.

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to table this item for further amendment.

Councilman Widger seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

1. **CONTRACT WITH MPC STUDIOS FOR MODIFICATIONS AND/OR UPGRADES TO THE CITY’S WEBSITE AND FUNDING FOR SUCH CONTRACT AUTHORIZED**

Councilwoman Thompson disclosed a potential conflict of interest in that her brother, Gabriel Puente, was one of the website developers who submitted a proposal. She refrained from any discussion on this item and an Affidavit Providing Notice of Potential Conflict of Interest was filed with the City Secretary.

Mayor Rivera explained that the Committee consisting of Councilman Widger, Councilwoman Thompson and the City Secretary were recommending MPC Studios to modify the City’s current website.

Councilman Widger explained that the current website was developed in 2012 and is outdated. MPC will provide better analytics and they have experience with government website. The big advantage with the contract is that the City can pull out at any time. Four website companies were contacted. The new website would be more presentable and sell the City better and provide a vehicle that easily directs residents to needed information and would also showcase events in the area. MPC is cloud based; they are local and are the most economical. The monthly fee of $500 has the potential to be reduced to $50 a month and they have a zero startup cost. The monthly fee may be discontinued if services are no longer necessary and staff feels that they can maintain the website.

MPC will provide the training videos specific to our website and once staff is comfortable with the update, they would reduce to hosting only.

Councilman Widger commented that he would check to see if we would be limited to the number of pictures we could have on the website.

He also commented that another discussion that needs to be considered by the Council is to have a mission statement for the City---- or a tagline.

Councilman Jones made a motion to authorize the contract with MPC Studios and the funding for the contract in the amount of $5,000 for this fiscal year through the end of September 2017.

Councilwoman Martin seconded the motion.

Mayor Rivera took the votes and the motion carried as follows:

Aye: Jones, Martin, Widger, Wright

Nay: None

Abstained: Thompson

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
2. **Police Report – October 2016**
3. **Municipal Court Monthly Report – October 2016**
4. **Monthly Check Listing – October 2016**
5. **Monthly Financial Report (budget) – October 2016**
6. **Investment Report – October 2016**
7. **Council/staff liaison reports**

Chief Garcia briefed the Council on the police department monthly activity including personnel and training. He informed the Council that one full time officer resigned and he had assigned two reserves to fill in on a part time basis. Eventually, one of the reserves would become a full time officer.

Charles Ramsey commented that he is down to about two volunteers for the Neighborhood Watch Program and he needs more help. He has been talking to people and there is a consensus that the daytime is also a good time to watch because of the many packages that are delivered around this time of year.

Council/staff liaison reports

Mayor Rivera recommended that the Council consider cancelling the December meeting due to lack of items for the agenda. The Council agreed.

Mayor Rivera added that some residents have expressed concern over the meeting times. Mayor Rivera stated that the January meeting (January 17, 2017) would start at 6:00 p.m. and would be monitored for three months to see what the public’s attendance would be during those three months.

Councilwoman Martin stated that the newsletter would be out on Friday and asked that a copy of the flyer for the Lighting of the Palms event be sent to her for inclusion in the newsletter.

Councilman Widger commented that the website modifications would not be started until January 2017.

Mayor Rivera invited everyone to attend the Lighting of the Palms event on November 25 @ 5:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Thompson stated that for now the Committee would not pursue Facebook or Tweeter for the City. She also invited the public to attend an event at the Harlingen Performing Arts Theatre regarding a wellness Council who will present information for making vibrant and healthy communities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. upon a motion by Councilwoman Martin and a second by Councilwoman Thompson.

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George Rivera, Mayor

Attest:

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Sylvia R. Trevino, City Secretary